

## Abstract of the Invention

The invention relates to a knife holder for a microtome. The knife holder has a plate arranged pivotably on its base member and arranged, in its functional position covering the cutting edge of the knife, spaced apart from the cutting plane to the side of the knife holder remote from the specimen side, and at the same time spaced apart from the knife holder on the side of the cutting edge of the knife. By this arrangement of the plate, any gripping of the cutting edge of the knife can be precluded in the functional position of this plate. In advantageous embodiment examples of the invention, the pivoting mechanism for the plate is coupled to a switch which has the effect that, when the plate is pivoted out of the functional position, the motor drive of the cutting movement is locked, or that a brake precludes any movement of the knife slide or specimen slide. So that observation of section removal is possible even when the protective device is in the functional position, the plate preferably consists of a transparent material.